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Two other features of the book deserve mention here: the survey of the religious traits of the wild tribes, an interesting supplement to the discussion of the Indo-Aryan religions, and the bibliography, which is well arranged, and will call forth the thanks of many students.

A. W. STRATTON.

Verner Dahlerup: Nekrolog över Karl Verner. Arkiv för Nordisk Filologi. New Series, Vol. IX, Part 3.

Not a few great talents have been known as men of one book. Karl Verner is probably the only scholar of distinguished ability that is generally known as a man of one article. Although the name of Verner is a household word among all students of language, probably few in this country have any knowledge of the life and character of the man that bore it. For this reason, if for no other, a brief account of some of the salient features in the career of this so greatly lamented Danish scholar must be of interest to English readers. Additional interest is given to the article on which this review is based by the fact that it is written by a Dane, a friend of Verner's, and one in every way competent to judge of the significance for linguistic science of Verner's work.

Karl Adolph Verner was born in Aarhus, Jutland, Denmark, March 7, 1846. Even before entering the University in 1864 he had shown an interest in the study of language, his attention having been drawn in that direction by reading the life of his great countryman Rask. While at the University he devoted himself chiefly to the study of the Oriental, the Germanic and the Slavic languages. In the beginning of his course he had intended to pursue the classics, and in spite of his later investigation of the so-called modern languages, he always retained a vivid interest in the older tongues.

After serving in the army, Verner went in December, 1871, to Russia, where he remained almost a year, learning to speak Russian, and pursuing his studies with great zeal. On his return his friends induced him with difficulty to take the master's examination, for which he had the utmost dread. The next year and a half were spent in his native town, his health not permitting him to engage in any regular occupation. During this enforced vacation he wrote his first scientific treatise, "Nogle Raskiana" (1874). At the same time he carefully investigated accent in the Slavic languages and in Danish, and outlined the changes in Danish pronunciation from Holberg's time to the present day, only the main results of which were published.

The account of the development in his mind of the law that was destined to make him famous is so interesting that nothing but a full translation of it will suffice. "According to a verbal account of Verner's (repeated to Dahlerup by Hoffory and endorsed by Verner), he happened one morning on getting up to reflect that it was strange that the Gothic words *fadar* and *broþar* had different consonants after the root vowel. As he was just then engaged in studying accent, it was natural for him to seek the explanation in this direction. He examined the conditions in Sanskrit and found there *pítar* and *bhrā́tar*. He had discovered the clue, which he quickly followed out." After briefly explaining the law, Dahlerup adds: "Verner finished his epoch-making treatise

in the spring of 1875, and sent it in a letter dated May 1 to Vilhelm Thomsen. Shortly before this he had learned that a petition for a travelling stipendium had been granted him. On his way to the continent he remained a few weeks in Copenhagen. Vilhelm Thomsen had immediately on receiving his letter encouraged Verner to print his paper, which he said would overturn many accepted views. During his stay in Copenhagen, Verner wrote his treatise in German and sent it to Adolph Kuhn." The results of the publication of the *Ausnahme* in the following year are too familiar to require telling here.

Surprise has often been expressed that Verner, the most famous philologist in Denmark, should have had so comparatively insignificant a career, and his fatherland has been reproached by those unacquainted with the facts for having neglected so brilliant a son. As a matter of fact, Verner was thoroughly appreciated at home, and had it not been for the encouragement of his many Danish friends he would probably have remained in utter obscurity. Strange as it may sound, the discoverer of Verner's Law considered himself a mere amateur, a dilettante in Germanic philology. When in 1876 Wilh. Scherer offered to obtain for him a professorship in Germany, he declined on the ground that he was not sufficiently developed for such a position, and accepted instead a vacancy at the Halle library as assistant librarian. Two years later he refused a professorship at Gratz, and it is believed also at Strassburg, contenting himself with a promotion at the library. It was only with great difficulty that Scherer induced him to apply for the Bopp prize, which was bestowed on him in 1877.

On the death of his old teacher of the Slavic languages, C. W. Smith, in 1881, Verner, again only after persistent urging by friends, applied for the vacancy, and in August, 1882, he was appointed Docent in the Slavic Languages and Literatures, six years later being promoted to Professor Extraordinarius. A year before this promotion he was granted an honorary degree by the University of Heidelberg, in 1888 he was elected a member of the Danish Academy of Sciences, and in 1892 he was decorated with the order of the Danebrog.

Even stranger apparently than Verner's modest career was his comparative unproductiveness. The explanation of this too is to be found in his character. In a letter to a friend, Verner once said, 'I have inclination to enjoy, but not to produce.' (Jeg har tilbøjelighed til at nyde, men utilbøjelighed til at yde.) His enjoyment, it should be added, was of a strictly intellectual character. Like many men of genius, too, his interest was confined to the intellectual process; with the practical result he was not in the least concerned. After having made a discovery he seemed to lack any desire to put it in proper shape for presentation. His innate modesty, too, had much to do with his unwillingness to publish the results of his investigations. Still another reason is found in his extreme conscientiousness. Although after his appointment in Copenhagen his only publications were two short articles in German journals and a number of short articles on Slavic subjects in Salmonsens's Encyclopedia, Verner was one of the busiest members of the faculty. His conscientiousness in preparing and attending lectures was almost painful. He practically rewrote the Slavic grammars used by his classes, prepared exhaustive original treatises on Russian accent and other subjects, and all for the exclusive benefit

of only one or two students at a time. Hr. Dahlerup states that Verner left an enormous amount of unpublished material in this and in other directions. It would be a matter of interest to learn if any of this valuable matter will be published.

Hr. Dahlerup closes his sympathetic and illuminating study as follows: "Not only will Karl Verner be honored as one of the foremost linguists that the North has produced, but his great personal amiability will be remembered by the many friends who with sorrow have learned of his early death."

DANIEL KILHAM DODGE.

Il Processo di Verre; un capitolo di storia romana. Di ETTORE CICCOTTI. Milano, edito a cura dell' autore, 1895. 240 pp. L. 3.50.

M. Tullii Ciceronis Oratio in Verrem *De Signis*. Publiée avec une Introduction et un Commentaire explicatif par HENRI BORNECQUE. Paris, Colin et Cie., 1896. 176 pp. Fr. 1.50.

The purpose of Prof. Ciccotti's book is mainly historical. By means of a wide and careful study of the original documents he has tried to give a faithful picture of Verres and his times.

The subject of the first chapter (pp. 3-21) is well suggested by Juvenal's vivid line, VI 293, which serves as its motto, *Luxuria incubuit victumque ulciscitur orbem*. It describes the great changes in the public and private life of the Romans which followed the extension of their sway beyond the natural boundaries of Italy and the establishment of their provincial system. An influx of wealth, an increase of luxury, electoral corruption and plundering of the provinces were among the first-fruits of that system. The provincial governors had almost unlimited powers and the home government provided no adequate check on their excesses; few of them showed the scrupulous honesty of a Piso Frugi or were content with the Jeffersonian simplicity of a Cato Censor. The second chapter (pp. 21-37) gives a brief description of the way in which the Roman provinces were governed (*quasi quaedam praedia populi Romani*) and of the arrangements made for collecting revenue from them. Chapter III (pp. 37-57) gives an account of the various *leges de repetundis*, from the *lex Calpurnia* of B. C. 149 to the *lex Cornelia* under which Verres was indicted. Chapter IV (pp. 57-79) treats of the conquest of Sicily (*insula Cereris*) and of the various relations in which the Sicilian communities stood to Rome; also, of the economic conditions of Sicily and the powers of its governors. Chapters V and VI (pp. 79-106 and 107-44) give an account, closely following that of Cicero, of the earlier career of Verres (*homo amens ac perditus*) and of his doings after he was sent into Sicily (*quasi in praedam*). The last chapter (pp. 144-235) describes the trial of Verres.

It is evident from *In Verrem*, I 37, that Verres was quaestor in Cisalpine Gaul in B. C. 82, the year of Carbo's third consulship. Hence, ever since the days of Drumann, Cicero's statement, I 34, that Verres was quaestor under Carbo in B. C. 84 has been generally regarded as a mistake. Prof. Ciccotti suggests that Verres was quaestor both in B. C. 84 and in B. C. 82, that he either remained in office for three consecutive years or was reappointed in